

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10 /102 W  
----- 001485 /67

P R 142351Z DEC 76  
FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1678  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6153

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, US, UR  
SUBJ: US-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS ON SIGNING OF THE ENMOD  
CONVENTION

1. AT SOVIET REQUEST, ISSRAELYAN, CHIEF OF SOVIET MFA  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU, AND AMBASSADOR  
BENNETT MET ON DECEMBER 14 FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON  
THE STEPS NEEDED TO OPEN THE ENMOD CONVENTION FOR SIGNATURE.  
ISSRAELYAN EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF  
THE SOVIET DELEGATION IN NEW YORK AND THAT HE DID NOT HAVE  
INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW.

2. ISSRAELYAN NOTED THAT THE US AND USSR HAVE A SPECIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPENING THE ENMOD CONVENTION FOR  
SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION SINCE ITS ORIGINS TRACE BACK  
TO THE 1974 MOSCOW SUMMIT MEETING. THE DRAFT RESOLUTION  
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST WEEK CALLS FOR  
THE OPENING OF THE CONVENTION FOR SIGNATURE AND  
RATIFICATION "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". IT WAS QUITE LIKELY  
THAT THE SECRETARIAT WOULD BE APPROACHING THE SOVIET AND US  
DELEGATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON THIS MATTER AND IT WAS  
IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A COORDINATED APPROACH.

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BENNETT AGREED WITH THESE POINTS AND PARTICULARLY THE

DESIRABILITY OF A COMMON APPROACH.

3. ISSRAELYAN PROPOSED THAT WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW REACH DECISIONS ON THREE MATTERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE: (A) THE DATE OF THE SIGNING; (B) THE PLACE; AND (C) THE LEVEL OF THE SIGNATORIES.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE DATE OF SIGNING, ISSRAELYAN OBSERVED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE US AND THE USSR SHOULD SIGN THE CONVENTION ON THE SAME DATE. WHILE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE THAT THE OTHER 27 CO-SPONSORS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ALSO SIGN ON THE SAME DAY, ISSRAELYAN SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WAS IMPRACTICAL. THE SOVIETS WOULD BE PREPARED TO SIGN THE CONVENTION AT AN EARLY DATE AND ITS SCHEDULING DEPENDED ON THE WISHES OF THE US ADMINISTRATION.

5. AS REGARDS THE VENUE, THE SOVIETS BELIEVE THAT THE CONVENTION COULD BE SIGNED IN ONE OF THE UN CENTERS, I.E., EITHER NEW YORK OR GENEVA. THEY SEE NO PARTICULAR REASON, ON THE OTHER HAND, FOR THE SIGNING CEREMONY TO BE IN MOSCOW, WASHINGTON OR OTHER CAPITAL.

6. THE SOVIETS ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE, ISSRAELYAN SAID, TO THE LEVEL OF THE SIGNATORIES. RECALLING THAT PREVIOUS BILATERAL US/SOVIET AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL, AND THAT MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS ALSO WERE SIGNED BY HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS, ISSRAELYAN SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW THE ENMOD CONVENTION SHOULD BE SIGNED AT A LEVEL NO LOWER THAN THAT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER. REPLYING TO BENNETT'S INQUIRY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING THE CONVENTION SIGNED BY THE SOVIET AND US PERMREPS IN NEW YORK, ISSRAELYAN NOTED THAT THE SOVIET PERMREP DOES NOT HAVE THE EQUIVALENT CABINET STATUS OF THE US PERMREP, AND REPEATED HIS PREFERENCE FOR THE SIGNATORIES TO BE FOREIGN MINISTERS OR HIGHER.

7. BENNETT NOTED THAT THESE MATTERS CLEARLY REQUIRED DECISIONS TO BE MADE BUT THAT HE DID NOT HAVE  
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INSTRUCTIONS ON ANY OF THE ISSUES RASIED. WE WOULD TRANSMIT ISSRAELYAN'S CONCERNS PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON AND WOULD HOPE TO PROVIDE A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE BEFORE DEPUTY FOEIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV'S DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW ON DECEMBER 17.  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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